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2D SESSION

H. J. RES. 84

Expressing the commitment of Congress to continue to make it a priority to fight anti-Semitism and to promote tolerance at home and abroad.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 14, 2008

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN (for herself, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Mr. PENCE, and Mr. KLEIN of Florida) introduced the following joint resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

JOINT RESOLUTION

Expressing the commitment of Congress to continue to make it a priority to fight anti-Semitism and to promote tolerance at home and abroad.

Whereas it is the policy of the United States to protect minorities and to oppose hatred based on nationality, religion, race, or ethnicity, including countering anti-Semitism, at home and abroad;

Whereas according to the Contemporary Global Anti-Semitism Report released by the Department of State's Office of the Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism, "[o]ver the last decade, United States embassies and consulates have reported an upsurge in anti-Semitism . . . and that [a]nti-Semitic crimes range from acts of violence, including terrorist attacks against Jews, to

the desecration and destruction of Jewish property . . . and that “[a]nti-Semitic rhetoric, conspiracy theories, and other propaganda circulate widely and rapidly by satellite television, radio, and the Internet”;

Whereas the Anti-Semitism Report adopts the working definition of anti-Semitism that the European Monitoring Center on Racism and Xenophobia (EUMC) formulated in close collaboration with the Office of Democratic Institutions and Human Rights of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe;

Whereas the Anti-Semitism Report excerpts some key parts of the definition, including: “Anti-Semitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of anti-Semitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities.”;

Whereas the Anti-Semitism Report also states: “Manifestations of anti-Semitism ‘could also target the state of Israel, conceived as a Jewish collectivity. Anti-Semitism frequently charges Jews with conspiring to harm humanity, and it is often used to blame Jews for “why things go wrong.” It is expressed in speech, writing, visual forms and action, and employs sinister stereotypes and negative character traits.’”;

Whereas, for purposes of this resolution, the term “anti-Semitism” shall have the meaning given that term in the Anti-Semitism Report, including Holocaust denial or trivialization and denial of the Jewish people’s right to self-determination by claiming that the existence of the State of Israel is a manifestation of racism, requiring behavior of Israel not expected or demanded of any other

democratic nation, using the symbols and images associated with classic anti-Semitism to characterize Israel or Israelis, or comparing Israeli policy with that of the Nazis;

Whereas expansion of media outlets, including television and the Internet, has vastly increased opportunities to proliferate anti-Semitic propaganda;

Whereas government-sponsored anti-Semitism, including anti-Semitism expressed in state-sponsored media, continues to be a significant problem in multiple countries throughout the world;

Whereas anti-Semitic material in the media, particularly in cases where it is sanctioned by the government, legitimizes anti-Semitism and foments hatred and intolerance;

Whereas the Anti-Semitism Report lists Saudi Arabia, Iran, Syria, Egypt, the United Arab Emirates, Venezuela, and Belarus as some of the countries with state-controlled media that distributes anti-Semitic materials;

Whereas expressions of anti-Semitism in government owned or controlled media appear in articles, cartoons, shows, even television shows for children, and other media;

Whereas typical examples of anti-Semitic expressions in government owned or controlled media, include—

(1) portraying stereotypical images of Jews and Jewish symbols, such as allegations that Jews control the world or depictions of Jews as thieves;

(2) accepting as fact The Protocols of the Learned Elders of Zion or the Blood Libels;

(3) depicting demonic images of Jews or Israeli leaders;

(4) denying the Holocaust;

(5) alleging that the September 11, 2001, attacks against the United States “were carried out by Jews”; and

(6) comparisons of Israeli leaders and Israel to Hitler and the Nazis;

Whereas some governments fail to respond adequately to anti-Semitic incidents including attacks on Jewish citizens, monuments, building, and cemeteries; and

Whereas the United Nations Human Rights Council, and its predecessor the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, has singled out Israel through resolutions and special sessions criticizing the Jewish State, while paying little attention to actual notorious human rights violators, including Belarus, Burma, Cuba, North Korea, and Sudan: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives*
 2 *of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*
 3 That Congress—

4 (1) expresses its commitment to continue to
 5 make it a priority to fight anti-Semitism and to pro-
 6 mote tolerance at home and abroad;

7 (2) urges all governments to take all steps nec-
 8 essary to eradicate anti-Semitism and to promote re-
 9 ligious tolerance;

10 (3) condemns any and all official and unofficial
 11 sanctioning of anti-Semitic activity by any govern-
 12 ment;

1 (4) condemns the continuing anti-Israel and
2 anti-Semitic activities and rhetoric at the United
3 Nations;

4 (5) expresses that, it shall be the policy of the
5 United States, when evaluating its relationship with
6 any foreign government, including when determining
7 United States foreign assistance to be provided, to
8 take into account whether a foreign government ac-
9 tively or passively foments anti-Semitism by, among
10 other things—

11 (A) using media that is government-owned
12 or subject to government control;

13 (B) seeking to control religious thought
14 and expression;

15 (C) failing to discourage anti-Semitism or
16 incitement to anti-Semitism;

17 (D) discriminating against religious
18 groups;

19 (E) establishing policies that aim to dis-
20 criminate against religious groups or fail ade-
21 quately to protect religious groups from harass-
22 ment, discrimination, and attacks; and

23 (F) fomenting anti-Semitism or other reli-
24 gious intolerance among its youth, including in
25 its schools;

1 (6) expresses that it shall be the policy of the
2 United States Government when conducting its an-
3 nual review of the status of religious freedom world-
4 wide and determining which countries should be des-
5 ignated as “Countries of Particular Concern”, to
6 pay special attention to government sponsorship, fo-
7 menting or endorsement of anti-Semitic activities as
8 well as any government’s failure to take adequate
9 steps to halt anti-Semitic activities;

10 (7) calls on the President to direct the United
11 States Permanent Representative to the United Na-
12 tions to use the voice, vote, and influence of the
13 United States to prevent the use of the United Na-
14 tions regular budget to support the planned 2009
15 Durban Review Conference;

16 (8) calls on the Secretary-General of the United
17 Nations to—

18 (A) officially and publicly condemn any
19 anti-Semitic statements made at United Na-
20 tions meetings;

21 (B) establish and enforce policies to hold
22 accountable any United Nations official or em-
23 ployee who makes such statements; and

24 (C) further develop and implement edu-
25 cation awareness programs about historic and

1 contemporary anti-Semitism, including the Hol-
2 ocaust, as part of an effort to combat the global
3 rise in anti-Semitism; and

4 (9) calls on the Secretary of State to secure
5 adoption of a United Nations General Assembly res-
6 olution implementing procedures at the United Na-
7 tions to hold accountable member states that make
8 anti-Semitic or incendiary statements and engage in
9 anti-Semitic or incendiary activities, including by
10 suspending the membership privileges of such mem-
11 ber states.

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